

February 19, 2015

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

**RE: Winter Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project #2064
Flambeau Hydro LLC
Final Report 2014 Land & Wildlife Management Report**

**FERC License Article 404
USDA Forest Service 4(e), Condition 10
Wisconsin DNR 401 Water Quality Certification, Item Letter P, Q, R**

Dear Ms. Bose:

On behalf of Flambeau Hydro LLC, Licensee, Renewable World Energies LLC hereby submits the Licensee's 2014 Final Land and Wildlife Management Report for the Winter Hydroelectric Project FERC #2064. The Draft Report was sent to the agencies by letter dated December 18, 2014, and again attached to an e-mail dated January 12, 2015 asking for comment.

Background

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission "FERC" issued a License to Flambeau on August 12, 2005. Portions of the original Certification were contested by the Licensee. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) submitted a revised Water Quality Certification, Dated at Park Falls, WI:

August 19, 2008 that replaced the original certification of June 21, 2005. Only conditions E, F, and J were modified and a footnote was added to condition D according to the Final Settlement Agreement.

The submitted report is a requirement of the License pursuant to Article 404, Forest Service (FS) Condition 10, and WDNR Water Quality Certification Item Letter P, Q, and R. The Land & Wildlife Management Plan was filed with FERC on December 19, 2008. FERC issued an Order Modifying and Approving the plan on June 3, 2011.

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2014 Results

Wood Turtle Survey

The wood turtle survey was conducted on June 4 and June 5, 2014. No wood turtles were sighted by the licensee although multiple other animal species were seen including blackbirds, deer, painted turtles, spiny softshell turtles, geese, and a turkey vulture. Survey notes and photos are included under the section titled Survey Documents page 21. The next survey will be completed in the early summer of 2015.

Invasive Species Consultation

The invasive species survey was conducted on August 18 and Asiatic honeysuckles were still growing in the same areas as on previous years. Photos and survey notes are included under the section titled Survey Documents page 21. Purple loosestrife is covered in the next section. None of the other invasive species were noted on this survey. The next survey will be completed in the late summer of 2015.

During the 2014 season Flambeau Hydro, LLC was in contact with Steven Spickerman Plant Ecologist for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. They were to treat the invasive honeysuckle near the tailrace and along the canoe portage trail by spraying in place (basal bark treatment.) during the 2014 growing season. An email from him on November 3, 2014 revealed that they treated the honeysuckle infestation on September 22 and 23, 2014 with Element 4(61.6% triclopyr) mixed with a surfactant Liberate as a basal bark treatment. They will reassess in the spring when the new growth appears. Email correspondence is attached under Appendix 1.

Purple Loosestrife Survey

On August 18, 2014 the licensee conducted a survey for purple loosestrife plants. Of the four previously noted sites only one (WNTR PL002-PL003) had 7 plants blooming in the middle of a grassy swamp. The only animal life seen this day was a family of 4 ducks and various songbirds. Photo and survey notes included under the section titled Survey Documents page 21. The next survey will be completed in the late summer of 2015.

Erosion Survey

The erosion survey was completed on June 5, 2014. There are 3 minor erosion sites located on the Winter Project. WNTR ER003 is the only one located on project lands and it has not changed in the comparison photos from 2011 to 2014. WNTR ER001 could not be located as it is healing and blended in. A photo comparison from 2010 to 2013 shows that it has grown much ground cover over the years. WNTR 002 also has more vegetation growing on the toe of the bank and appears to be healing as well- photos comparing 2011 to 2014 are included under the section titled Survey Documents page 21. Next erosion survey will be conducted in the spring of 2017 and the results will be added to the 2017 Land and Wildlife Report.

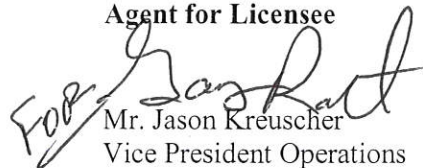
Comments were received from USFS on January 26 saying the report looked good, continue to work with Steven Spikerman on NNIS issues, and that the portion of the report dealing with the Wolf needed revision to reflect re-listing. This has been completed. No other comment on the report was received as of the date of this letter.



Wolf Survey

No Wolf surveys were conducted during 2014 because the Wolf had been de-listed. However, the Licensee began consultation with the agencies concerning the recent re-listing of the Wolf. A proposal was made to conduct surveys for wolves at the Winter Hydro Project. **RWE Proposal: The survey will be conducted in the winter when the operator does daily checks at the project after fresh snowfall as a foot/vehicle survey of the accessible project property. After winter 2015 the surveys would be conducted beginning with the first snowfall of the fall season and continuing through March 31st.** All the agencies agreed to this proposal. The surveys began mid-January 2015 and will continue thru March 31st and resume after the first fresh snowfall in the fall thru March 31st each year.

Sincerely,
Renewable World Energies, LLC
Agent for Licensee


Mr. Jason Kreuzscher
Vice President Operations

Attachment: Final Report 2014 Land & Wildlife Management Report – February 19, 2015

Cc: RWE Corporate
Mr. Nick Utrup, USFWS
Ms. Cheryl Laatsch, WDNR
Mr. Paul Strong, Forest Supervisor, FS
Ms. Sue Reinecke, FS
Mr. Dale Higgins, FS

FINAL

2014 LAND & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT REPORT (Per FERC License Article 404)

Per USDA Forest Service 4(e) Condition 10
Per WDNR Revised 401 Water Quality Certification Item Letter P, Q, R

Winter Hydroelectric Project FERC Project #2064 Flambeau Hydro, LLC

East Fork of the Chippewa River, Sawyer County, Wisconsin

Respectfully Submitted by:

Renewable World Energies
100 South State Street
Neshkoro, Wisconsin 54960

Final – February 19, 2015

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I
Plan Requirements & Approval

1. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new license on August 12, 2005 to Flambeau Hydro LLC. The license is for the continued operation and maintenance of the 600 KW Winter Project (No. 2064), located in Sawyer County on the East Fork of the Chippewa River. As such, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission incorporated the following requirement into the new license:

FERC License Article 404 - Land and Wildlife Management Plan

Within six months of license issuance, the licensee shall file for Commission approval a plan to manage land and wildlife at the project. The plan shall be prepared after consultation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Wisconsin DNR), the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Measures to protect threatened and endangered species (i.e., bald eagle, gray wolf) at the project, as well as other wildlife habitat of concern, shall be included in the land and wildlife management plan. In addition, the plan shall include guidelines for the managing vegetation, habitat, and ground-disturbing activities in accordance with condition 10 in appendix B of this license, and shall be consistent with the bald eagle and gray wolf management guidelines of the FWS, Forest Service, and Wisconsin DNR. The plan shall include, at a minimum, the following:

- 1. Procedures for obtaining and documenting bald eagle nesting activity and the presence of gray wolves on an annual basis, and for maintaining the information on project maps for use when planning land disturbing activities such as vegetation control or recreation facility development;*
- 2. Consultation with the Wisconsin DNR, Forest Service, and FWS prior to conducting land disturbing activities that could affect any of the threatened and endangered species using project land;*
- 3. Measures to protect Regional Forester Sensitive Species and Management Indicator Species; and*
- 4. Measures to control erosion from trails, parking lots and shoreline areas; and; annual consultation with the resource agencies to allow for periodic management plan updates and to obtain agency input regarding proposed management decisions.*

The licensee shall include with the land and wildlife management plan documentation of agency consultation, including copies of agency comments and recommendations on the draft plan, and specific descriptions of how the agencies' comments are accommodated by the plan. The licensee shall allow a minimum of 30 days for the agencies to comment and to make recommendations, before filing the plan with the Commission. If the licensee does not adopt a recommendation, the filing shall include the licensee's reasons, based on project-specific information.

The Commission reserves the right to require changes to the plan. The land and Wildlife management plan shall not be implemented until the licensee is notified that the plan is approved. Upon approval, the licensee shall implement the plan according to the approved schedule, including any changes required by the Commission.

2. Attached to the FERC License, and as Appendix B, are the USDA Forest Service Conditions. As such the USDA Forest Service incorporated the following condition into the FERC License:

USDA Forest Service Condition No. 10 – Vegetation, Habitat and Ground-disturbing Activities on National Forest System Lands

Within one year of license issuance or at least 90 days prior to vegetation, habitat, and/or ground-disturbing activity, whichever comes first the Licensee shall file with the Commission a Vegetation, Habitat, and Ground-Disturbing Management Plan (Plan) that is approved by the Forest Service. The Plan shall be site specific and be prepared in consultation with the appropriate Federal and State resource agencies for all tree or vegetation removal, habitat, and/or ground-disturbing activities on, or effecting, National Forest System lands.

The Plan shall implement measures to prevent the Spread of non-native invasive species; minimize erosion as well as sedimentation; protect, mitigate, or enhance terrestrial and fisheries habitat; and provide for adaptive management measures based on prescribed monitoring objectives over the life of the license. The Licensee shall not file any such plans with the Commission or commence any such activities without written approval from the USDA Forest Service.

At a minimum, and where relevant, the Plan shall include the following provisions:

Notification to the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest before the Licensee begins any vegetation or ground disturbing work;

The Licensee's plan shall comply with USDA Forest Service and Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest sensitive species and non-native invasive species management guidelines and protocols, including prevention, control, and monitoring protocols;

Identification of methods for prevention and control of non-native invasive species. Treatment of existing infestations of highest priority non-native invasive species shall be initiated immediately upon completion of appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation and approval of the Plan by the Commission;

Notification to the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest upon the Licensee finding new locations for any listed non-native invasive species and/or prior to any independent actions at non-native invasive species control efforts;

Timing to establish vegetation of disturbed soils as soon as possible;

Identification and prioritization of any erosion areas to be re-vegetated or rehabilitated; Procedures for identification of additional measures that the Licensee shall implement if monitoring reveals that re-vegetation and vegetation control is not successful or does not meet intended objectives;

Disclosure of any temporary habitat and/or ground-disturbing measures the Licensee will use;

A list of species to be used, planting location, and site preparation methods.

Emphasis shall be to use native species and to follow the Forest's Land and Recourse Management Plan as well as the Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management practices for Water Quality,

Identification of measures the Licensee will use to mitigate project effects on terrestrial and aquatic habitat including any identified habitat threats, as well as measures designed to enhance habitat, including restoration of wetland, riparian, and aquatic systems;

Be updated to meet standards and guidelines that are applicable to the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest;

Be updated as new information is obtained in consultation with the agencies and submit the updated plan to the Forest Service and Commission for approval;

A monitoring program to evaluate the effectiveness of re-vegetation, vegetation control and/or non-native invasive species control measures; and

Identify a timeline for accomplishing plan objectives.

3. Attached to the FERC License, and as Appendix A, are the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) 401 Revised Water Quality Certification Dated at Park Falls WI: August 19, 2008 Item Letter P, Q, and R. As such the WDNR incorporated the following conditions into the FERC License:

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 401 Water Quality Certification Item Letter P, Q, and R

*P. The licensee shall annually inspect the entire shoreline of the project waters for purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and map its distribution and relative abundance. Inspections should be scheduled in August while plants are flowering so purple loosestrife can be readily identified. The licensee should submit a report of the monitoring results to the Department by December 31 each year. If the Department deems it necessary to initiate or expand efforts to control purple loosestrife in the East Fork Chippewa River, the licensee shall provide reasonable cooperation in those efforts.*

Q. The licensee shall monitor the shoreline of the project reservoir, power canal, tailrace, and bypassed channel for erosion, and if necessary, prepare an erosion control plan in consultation with the Department. Inspections should be conducted at three-year intervals in spring before vegetation develops, so eroded areas can be readily identified. The licensee shall submit to the Department a report of monitoring results by December 31 in the year of each inspection.

R. Before engaging in any activity that may introduce zebra mussels into project waters, the licensee shall provide or demand (through contract clause or other binding agreement) evidence of effective decontamination of barges, tools, boats, construction equipment, or other items capable of transferring water containing larval or adult zebra mussels. Effective decontamination may include steam-cleaning, chemical treatment, physical treatment, or other suitable procedures.

4. FERC PLAN APPROVAL

The Land and Wildlife Management was submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission December 19, 2008. It was approved by an *Order Modifying And Approving Land And Wildlife Management Plan Issued June 3, 2011*.

II
Description of Winter Hydroelectric Project

Project Description

The project is located on the East Fork of the Chippewa River, near the town of Winter, in Sawyer County, Wisconsin. The Project reservoir has been determined to be approximately 30 acres at the project's normal pool elevation. The USDA Forest Service portion of the reservoir, as defined to the natural thread of the river, would amount to a very tiny area of approximately 15 acres. Additionally, there are approximately 11 tiny acres of USDA Forest Service lands below the dam, making the total acreage of Federal lands at the project to be approximately only 26 acres.

The overall configuration of the project is as follows:

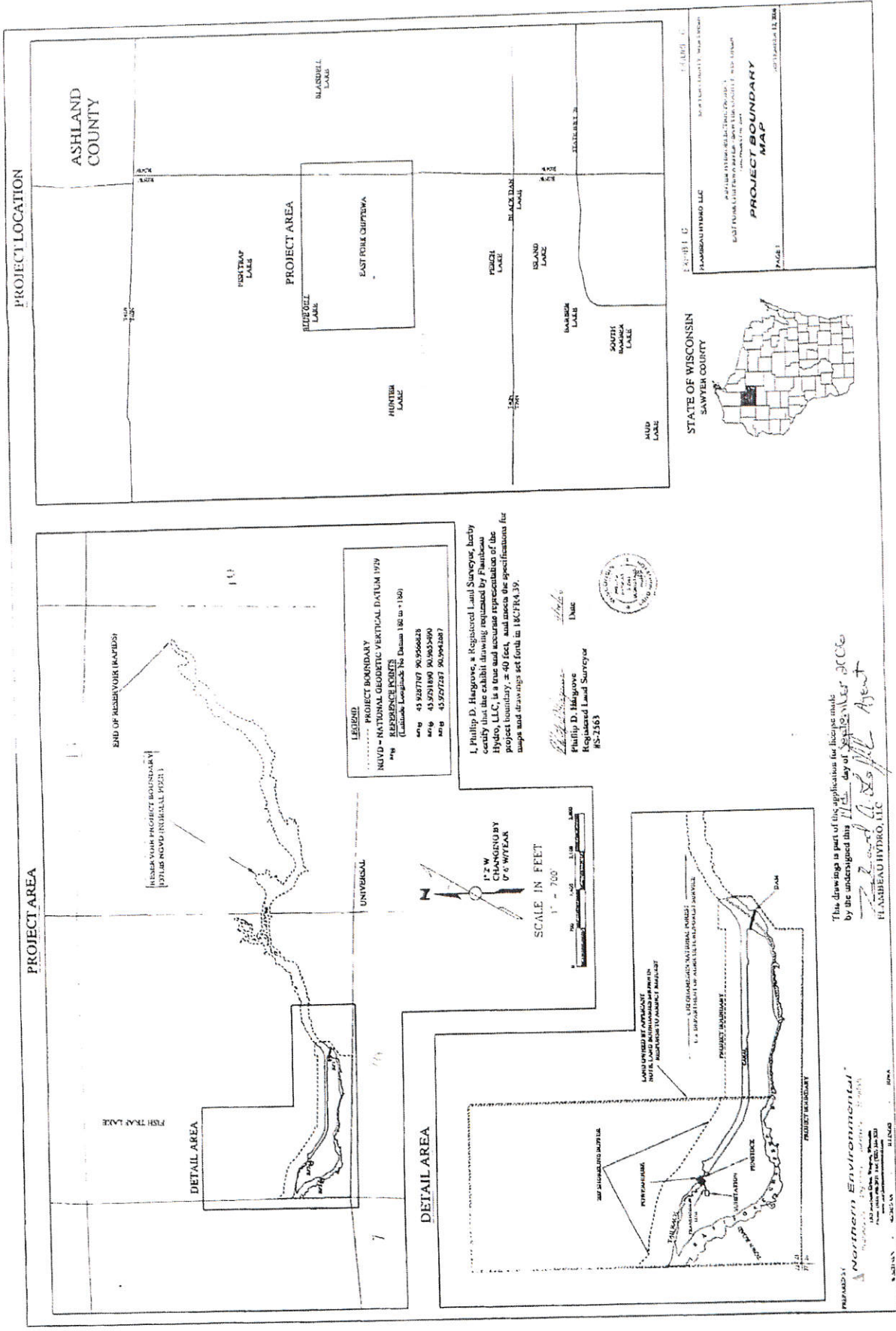
- Diversion Dam: A 14-foot-high, 140 foot-long concrete dam section (8 bays total) with steel gates on top of wooden stop logs in 7 bays and one bay with a 6'x16' steel lift gate operated with an electric motor and mechanical ball-screw. The diversion dam allows the water to be apportioned either to the by-passed reach or down the power canal and into the hydroelectric units.
- Power Canal: The power canal consists of earth embankments and is approximately 2,100 feet in length. The canal is approximately 20 feet wide at the bottom and has flanked earth embankments to retain the water.
- Intake Structure: The intake structures consist of reinforced concrete structure housing a common intake rack that conveys water to (2) two 5 foot – 6 inch penstock tubes.
- Powerhouse and the Tailrace: The powerhouse is a concrete structure (with a total of 24.5 feet of head) that houses two generators coupled to vertical Francis turbines. Unit 1 has a load capacity of 200 KW, and with a 174 CFS flow capacity. Unit 2 has a load capacity of 400 KW, with a 224 CFS flow capacity. The tailrace of the powerhouse is approximately 700 feet in length.
- USDA Forest Service Lands: The Forest Service lands are approximately 300 feet wide by 1600 feet long, or approximately 11 acres. However, this 300 foot strip includes; ½ of the river, the Diversion Dam, the Project's power canal, the diversion dam's access road and the left and right embankments for the power canal. (please refer to the Plan's map; Forest Service Lands at the Winter Project)

III Project Drawings

Winter Hydroelectric Project Boundary
Exhibit G - Figure G-1

Forest Service Lands at the Winter Project

Winter Hydroelectric Project Boundary
Exhibit G - Figure G-1



PROJECT LOCATION

ASHLAND COUNTY

PROJECT AREA

FISH LAKE

DETAIL AREA

DETAIL AREA

RESERVOIR PROJECT BOUNDARY
(DOTTED LINE)

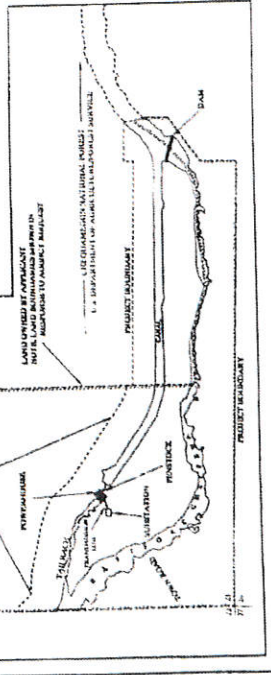
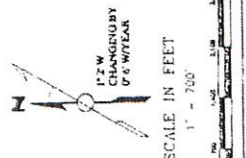
END OF RESERVOIR (KATISH)

LEGEND
 - - - - - PROJECT BOUNDARY
 - - - - - RESERVOIR BOUNDARY
 - - - - - NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM 1979
 REFERENCE POINTS
 45° 43' 52.7107" N 90° 55' 06.253" W
 45° 43' 52.8100" N 90° 55' 05.2900" W
 45° 43' 52.7287" N 90° 55' 04.2287" W

I, Phillip D. Hargrove, a Registered Land Surveyor, hereby certify that the exhibit drawing requested by Flambeau Hydro, LLC, is a true and accurate representation of the project boundary, ± 40 feet, and meets the specifications for maps and drawings set forth in 18CFR19.9.



Phillip D. Hargrove
 Registered Land Surveyor
 85-2363



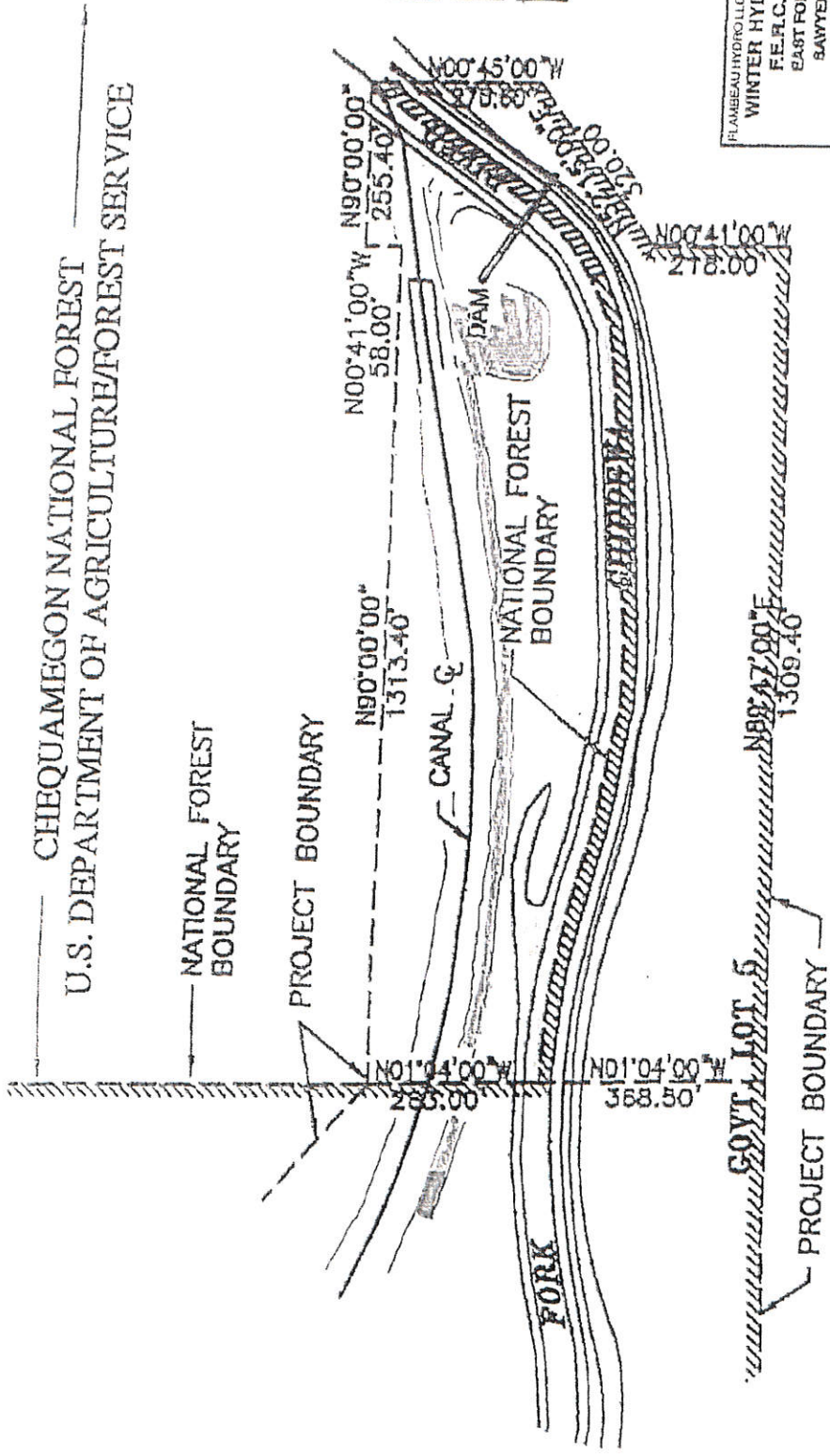
STATE OF WISCONSIN
 SAWYER COUNTY




FLAMBEAU HYDRO LLC
 2015 FEBRUARY 12, 2015
 PROJECT BOUNDARY MAP
 PAGE 1

This drawing is part of the application for license made by the undersigned this 12th day of February, 2015.
 Phillip D. Hargrove
 Registered Land Surveyor
 85-2363

Northern Environmental
 1000 Lakeshore Drive, Neenah, WI 54956
 920-739-1111
 Fax: 920-739-1112
 www.northernenv.com

Forest Service Lands at the Winter Project



-  POWER CANAL EMBANKMENT AND TOE AREA
-  POWER CANAL EAST FORK RIVER
-  DIVERSION DAM ACCESS ROAD

FLAMBEAU HYDRO, LLC
SAWYER COUNTY, WISCONSIN
WINTER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT
F.E.R.C. PROJECT NO. 2084
EAST FORK OF CHIPPEWA RIVER
SAWYER COUNTY, WISCONSIN
FOREST SERVICE LANDS
AT
THE WINTER PROJECT

IV
Land & Wildlife Survey Results

1. Bald Eagle

There are not results to report as no formal surveys were conducted for the Bald Eagle at the Winter Hydro Project in 2014 per approved plan. Agencies will be notified should any Eagle Nests be found located within the project boundary.

2. Gray Wolf

There are no results to report as no formal surveys were conducted for the Gray Wolf the Winter Hydro Project in 2014 per approved plan. The Gray Wolf was delisted at the time of submittal of the Land and Wildlife Management Plan. It was re-listed July 1, 2009 and Threatened and Endangered in Wisconsin by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), then delisted again on January 27, 2012. The Gray Wolf has since been re-listed as of December 19, 2014. With the re-listing, the Licensee needed to consult with the agencies for guidance. This was completed as of January 8, 2015. The Licensee began conducting winter Wolf surveys beginning in mid-January 2015. The RWE survey proposal was agreed upon by the agencies: **The survey will be conducted in the winter when the operator does daily checks at the project after fresh snowfall as a foot/vehicle survey of the accessible project property. After winter 2015 the surveys would be conducted beginning with the first snowfall of the Fall season and continuing through March 31st.** The results will be reported in the 2015 Land and Wildlife Management Reports. In the future, should the status of the wolf change, the Licensee will again consult with the agencies.

3. Wood Turtle

The annual Wood Turtle survey was conducted at the Winter Hydro Project on June 4, 2014 and June 5, 2014 by Aneta Rietveld. The survey started at 6:00 pm and ended at 7:15 pm on June 4th. The survey started at 9:00 a.m. and ended at 12:30 p.m. on June 5th making the total survey time 4 hours and 30 minutes. The survey was divided into 3 sections consisting of the Tailrace (6:00 p.m.-6:30 pm June 4th on foot), Bypass Reach (6:30 pm– 7:15 p.m. June 4th on foot), and Impoundment (9:00 am – 12:15 p.m. June 5th by canoe). Conditions for the survey were good. Temperatures were in the low- mid 70's and calm. Project log sheet records indicated a HWL of 1369.75-1369.85 MSL and TWL of 1346.45 MSL, project flow between 556 and 587 CFS. No sightings of Wood Turtles were noted. However, other species were observed and included:

- Blackbirds
- 1 deer
- 7 painted turtles
- 2 spiny softshell turtles (1 female ~14")
- 1 turkey vulture
- 2 geese

Survey documents and photos may be found at the end of the report under the section titled Survey Documents page 21.

4. Non Native Invasive Species

This section of the report includes survey results for species such as:

- Asiatic Honeysuckles, *Lonicera tartarica*, *L. morrowii*, and *L. x bella*
- Buckthorns, *Rhamnus cathartica* and *R. frangula*
- Curly Pondweed, *Potamogeton crispus*
- Garlic Mustard, *Alliaria petiolata*
- Eurasian Water Milfoil, *Myriophyllum spicatum*
- Japanese Knotweed, *Polygonum cuspidatum*
- Purple Loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*

It was agreed upon during Agency consultation and during the development of the Final Land and Wildlife Management Plan that these surveys could all be conducted concurrently. However, the Final Plan devoted a separate section to Purple Loosestrife which will be addressed in the next section of the report.

The survey was conducted by Mr. Gary Rast and Jim Tesch of RWE on August 18, 2014. The Tailrace, Bypass Reach, and FHLLC Property were surveyed on foot from 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm and the Impoundment from 1:00 pm -3:30 pm by boat.

The weather conditions during the survey were mostly cloudy with a temperature 65° - 73° F. Winds from the south at 7-8mph, Barometric pressure 29.77.

Honeysuckle was observed on the Tailrace Canoe Portage Trail and Fishing Access Trail as well as on the Bypass Reach Roadway to dam. Photos were taken again this year. None of the other invasive species were noted during this survey.

All survey information about the invasives found on the Winter Project (Asiatic Honeysuckle and Purple Loosestrife) has been added to the SWIMS database for the 2014 year.

The Forest Service crew came in on September 22 and September 23, 2014 and treated all the honeysuckle they could locate on the Winter Project lands. They used Element 4 (61.6% triclopyr) mixed with the surfactant Liberate as a basal bark treatment. When the honeysuckle leafs out again in the spring of 2015 either Steven Spickerman (ecologist) or one of his crew will monitor and re-assess the infestation. Correspondence is included in Appendix 1.

Survey documents and photos may be found at the end of the report under the section titled Survey Documents page 21.

5. Purple Loosestrife

On August 18, 2014, Flambeau Hydro, LLC (FHLLC) performed an inventory of purple loosestrife plants at the Winter Project in Sawyer County, Wisconsin. The method of inventory was defined as follows:

While Purple Loosestrife is blooming in July and August, the inventory should be conducted using a boat to survey the impoundment above the dam within the Project Boundary and on foot below the dam within the Project Boundary. County wetland maps may be used to determine other areas where Purple Loosestrife could be found on lands owned by FHLLC within the Project Boundary. Lands owned by FHLLC within the Project Boundary will be surveyed on foot. A pair of binoculars should be used to search for the purple flowered spikes of the plant. When plants are located, the person(s) inventorying should get close enough to make a positive identification without disturbing the plants or the immediate area around the plants as this could cause them to spread. A GPS receiver will be used to establish a GPS coordinate for the location of the plants. If it is not possible to get close enough to establish an accurate location, an approximate location will be established with reference to an established GPS coordinate. The plants should be inventoried by marking and numbering the location on a Project map along with notes approximating size of plants, stand area, stem density, plant density, and location with reference to established GPS coordinates. Photos and/or videotape may be taken of the largest occurrences.

Example:

GPS point CLRVPL001; Location Lat N45° 54.493' Lon W92° 31.128';
Plant height 2' – 6'; Density ~5' X 50' ~40 plants single & multi-stem;
Comments: Insect damage observed. Seed heads removed. Photos. No Video.

The area to be inventoried shall be the shoreline of the impoundment and lands owned by FHLLC within the Project Boundary as indicated on the Project Boundary Map G-1, as filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

General Observations:

The Winter Project Boundary was divided into three different areas; *the impoundment* (from the Winter powerhouse to the upstream project boundary, approximately 2.10 miles upstream), *FHLLC owned property within the project boundary* (FHLLC owned property adjacent to the dam and powerhouse), *the tailrace/bypass reach* (from the powerhouse to a point approximately 595 feet downstream, including the 3,028-foot long bypass reach area from the spillway to the downstream project boundary).

The tailrace/bypass reach was surveyed on foot (Tailrace and By-Pass Reach 3:30 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.) and no purple loosestrife plants were observed.

The FHLLC owned property within the project boundary was surveyed on foot (3:50 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.) and no purple loosestrife plants were observed.

The impoundment was surveyed by boat beginning at 1:00 p.m. and ending at 3:30 p.m. WNTRPL001 was not seen this year. WNTRPL002 / WNTRPL003 were located in a marshy low lying peninsula of grasses and cattails adjacent to the river (see included photo). This season 7 clumps of PL were seen, some with old cane present. They were not very tall and hard to see amongst the tall grasses this year and may have moved closer to the edge of the water. These are not in a navigable section of the river, so they were not pulled. WNTRPL004 was not seen this year. The survey crew proceeded upstream outside of the project boundary as during previous surveys to explore if any plants existed that may be contributing to the infestation by spreading seeds downstream into the impoundment. The 2010 survey had revealed four areas of blooming purple loosestrife plants located ~240 yards upstream from the project boundary. This site, (WNTRPLNA01) was checked out on foot and no Purple Loosestrife was observed in 2014.

The prior purple loosestrife plants were inventoried and have been noted on the survey sheet(s) and map(s) at the end of this report under survey documents (page 21) with notations added for 2014. No other occurrences of purple loosestrife were observed.

During the inventory, a boat and motor, compass, Digital Camera, Laser Rangefinder, GPS, and 2 pair of binoculars were used to document occurrences of purple loosestrife as noted in the survey comments at the end of this report.

A vegetation survey dated 1999 and included in Exhibit E of the Application for New License for the Winter Hydroelectric Plant and filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) was used as an aid in a 2008 baseline purple loosestrife survey.

6. Land Disturbance & Erosion Control

Erosion

Monitoring of erosion is a requirement of Section Q of the Water Quality Certification for the Winter Project and reads as follows:

- Q. The licensee shall monitor the shoreline of the project reservoir, power canal, tailrace, and bypassed channel for erosion, and if necessary, prepare an erosion control plan in consultation with the Department. Inspections should be conducted at three-year intervals in spring before vegetation develops, so eroded areas can be readily identified. The licensee shall submit to the Department a report of monitoring results by December 31 in the year of each inspection.

A basic rating system of Minor, Moderate, and Severe is used to give an indication of the condition of each site with the following description for each condition:

Minor – Some unusual erosion from within the recent past is noticeable. The site is either small or stable to the point that very little or no unusual sediment is entering the river. The toe of the bank is stationary and stable with material such as rocks, logs, vegetation, etc.

Moderate – Some unusual erosion from within the recent past is noticeable. The site has areas that appear to be actively eroding into the water in places. Vegetation may be slumping into the river at a slow rate. The majority of the toe of the bank is still stable with material such as rocks, logs, vegetation, etc.

Severe – Heavy unusual erosion from the recent past is evident. The site is actively eroding into the water. Little or no vegetation is present. The entire toe of the bank is unstable and eroding into the water.

FHLLC has been actively monitoring erosion within the Project Boundary since 2006 in order to gain an understanding of trends at potential sites. The 2014 erosion survey was completed on June 5 starting at 9:00 am to 12:15 pm. The day was sunny and 70° F. Headwater level was 1369.85, tailwater level was 1346.45, and flow was 556 cfs.

The next spring inspection will be performed in 2017 and will be added to the 2017 Land and Wildlife Management Report.

General Observations:

The Winter Project Boundary was divided into three different areas; *the impoundment* (from the Winter powerhouse to the upstream project boundary, approximately 2.10 miles upstream), *FHLLC owned property within the project boundary* (FHLLC owned property adjacent to the dam and powerhouse), *the tailrace/bypass reach* (from the powerhouse to a point approximately 595 feet downstream, including the 3,028-foot long bypass reach area from the spillway to the downstream project boundary).

The tailrace/bypass reach was surveyed on foot and no unusual erosion sites were observed.

The FHLLC owned property within the project boundary was surveyed on foot and one minor erosion site (WNTR ER003) was observed.

WNTR ER003 is located on a point of land formed at the confluence of the powerhouse tailrace and the by-pass reach about 0.12 miles downstream from the powerhouse. This site is a popular fishing area located on FHLLC property and erosion here can be directly attributed to pedestrian traffic. This is considered a Minor site due to its small footprint and rocky characteristic that increases stability. No noticeable erosion has been evident during the monitoring period of 2011 through 2014. The site appears much the same as it did in past surveys.

Human activity at this site appears to be what has caused this to be classed as an erosion site. It is unlikely to contribute noticeable sediment discharge to the river in its current condition.

No other unusual erosion sites were observed on FHLLC owned property within the project boundary.

The impoundment was surveyed by boat and two Minor erosion sites (WNTR ER001 and WNTR ER002) were observed.

WNTR ER001 is located on the right side of the river at the confluence of Fishtrap Creek and the East Fork of the Chippewa River about 0.90 miles upstream from the powerhouse. This site is not located on FHLLC property. It is considered a Minor site due to the stability of the toe. The entire toe is firmly established with trees, shrubbery, and other vegetation. No noticeable erosion has been evident during the monitoring period of 2011 through 2014. In fact it appears to be healing. A draw down was in effect during the 2011 survey for the installation of an approved fish passage. Due to this condition, a good comparison photo could not be taken of WNTR ER001. A photo taken during the 2010 survey was used in its place. It is unlikely to contribute noticeable sediment to the river in its current condition.

WNTR ER002 is located on the right side of the river near the spillway about 0.43 miles upstream from the powerhouse. This site is not located on FHLLC property. It is considered a Minor site due to the small size and stability of the toe. The entire toe is established with rock and gravel and has been growing more grasses during the last 3 years. No noticeable erosion has been evident during the monitoring period of 2011 through 2014. It is unlikely to contribute noticeable sediment to the river in its current condition.

No other unusual erosion sites were observed in the impoundment.

These erosion sites were inventoried and have been noted on the survey sheet(s) and map(s) at the end of this report.

During the inventory, a digital camera and/or video camera was used to document the erosion sites as noted in the survey comments at the end of this report.

7. Zebra Mussels

No Zebra Mussels were observed during the Wood Turtle survey performed during 2014. At the end of the survey the boat and trailer were cleaned with a 10% bleach solution applied by sprayer.

8. Standards and Guidelines

Flambeau Hydro LLC realizes that during the term of the license, applicable standards and guidelines for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest may change. So that the Plan can be updated and accommodate new information as it is obtained, Flambeau Hydro LLC will formally consult with the Forest Service every five (5) years to update the plan accordingly during the term of the License. The table below shows the schedule the consultation process will follow. The first formal consultation took place in 2013.

Year	Formal Consultation
2013	Yes
2018	Yes
2023	Yes
2028	Yes
2033	Yes
2038	Yes

Under standards and guidelines (number 9) of the Land and Wildlife Management Plan 2013 was the first year for a formal consultation between FHLLC and Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Service. During a phone conference call between Aneta Rietveld (RWE, Environmental Quality), Steven Spickerman (Forest Service, Plant Ecologist), and Sue Reineke (Forest Service, Fisheries Biologist) both agreed that there were no new standards and guidelines added for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest during the last 5 years that RWE has not already addressed in their plan. They agreed that no changes need to be made to the Land and Wildlife Management Plan. RWE Hydro will continue to follow the plan as written unless a new environmental concern is brought to our attention before the next 5 year formal consultation.

Survey Documents

Wood Turtle

Year 2014 WOOD TURTLE Survey

Winter Hydroelectric Project – FERC # 2064

Date: 6-4-14 Conducted By: AKR

HWL: 1369.75 TWL: 1346.45 CFS: 587

Time Survey Started: 6:00 pm Time Survey Ended: 7:15 pm

Weather Conditions: sunny 75°F

Location of Survey Area: Tailrace Bypass Reach Impoundment

Time of Sighting(s): N/A

Location of Sighting(s) (GPS Coordinates): _____

(Attach Photos & Map if Applicable)

Sex of Turtles Sighted: _____ Male _____ Female _____ Unknown

Total #Turtles Sighted 0 wood turtles

Other Species Observed: Black birds

Other Pertinent Survey Information

AKR

Year 2014 WOOD TURTLE Survey

Winter Hydroelectric Project – FERC # 2064

Date: 6-5-14 Conducted By: AKR

HWL: 1369.85 TWL: 1346.45 CFS: 556

Time Survey Started: 9:00 am Time Survey Ended: 12:15 pm Bar: 29.9

Weather Conditions: sunny 70°F

Location of Survey Area: Tailrace _____ Bypass Reach _____ Impoundment

Time of Sighting(s): _____

Location of Sighting(s) (GPS Coordinates): _____

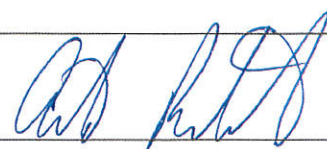
(Attach Photos & Map if Applicable)

Sex of Turtles Sighted: _____ Male _____ Female _____ Unknown

Total #Turtles Sighted NO wood turtles

Other Species Observed: turkey vulture, deer, 7 painted turtle
2 - spiny soft shell turtles (1-14" Female) 2 geese

Other Pertinent Survey Information





WINTER 6-5-2014 SPINY SOFTSHELL TURTLE #1



WINTER 6-5-2014 SPINY SOFTWHELL TURTLE #2

Invasive Species

PROJECT Year 2014 Invasive Species/Erosion Survey
FLOW - 80 CFS Winter Hydroelectric Project - FERC # 2064

Date: 8/18/14 Conducted By: GARY RAST

HWL: 1370.52 TWL: 1344.60

Time Survey Started: 3:30 PM Time Survey Ended: 3:50 PM

Weather Conditions: MOSTLY CLOUDY, PRESSURE @ 29.74,
WINDS S @ 8MPH, & TEMPS IN HIGH 60'S

Location of Survey Area: Tailrace Bypass Reach _____ Impoundment _____

Time of Sighting(s): N/A

Location of Sighting(s) (GPS Coordinates): N/A

(Attach Photos & Map if Applicable)

ORANGE + RED BERRIES PRESENT - MOSTLY RED
Asiatic Honeysuckles: Lonicera tartarica _____ L. morrowii _____ L. x bella _____

Buckthorns: Rhamnus carthartica _____ R. frangula _____

Curly Pondweed: _____ Garlic Mustard _____ Eurasian Water Milfoil _____

Japanese Knotweed: _____ Purple Loosestrife _____

Erosion: _____ (Photos Taken) Yes _____ No _____

Other Species Observed: NO OTHER SPECIES OBSERVED
EXCEPT SONG BIRDS.

Other Pertinent Survey Information

HONEY SUCKLE IS ABOUT AS PREVALENT AS LAST
YEAR (2013) WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH FOREST
SERVICE ABOUT CONTROL.

Gary Rast

PROJECT Year 2014 Invasive Species/Erosion Survey
Flow-800FS Winter Hydroelectric Project - FERC # 2064

Date: 8/18/14 Conducted By: GARY RAST

HWL: 1370.52 TWL: 1344.60

Time Survey Started: 3:30 Time Survey Ended: 3:50

Weather Conditions: MOSTLY CLOUDY, PRESSURE @ 29.74,
WINDS S @ 8 MPH, + TEMPS IN HIGH 60'S.

Location of Survey Area: Tailrace _____ Bypass Reach X Impoundment _____

Time of Sighting(s): N/A _____

Location of Sighting(s) (GPS Coordinates): N/A _____

(Attach Photos & Map if Applicable)

Asiatic Honeysuckles: Lonicera tartarica _____ L. morrowii _____ L. x bella _____

Buckthorns: Rhamnus carthartica _____ R. frangula _____

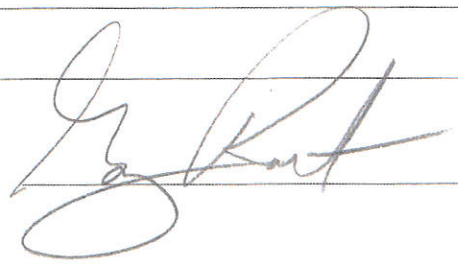
Curly Pondweed: _____ Garlic Mustard _____ Eurasian Water Milfoil _____

Japanese Knotweed: _____ Purple Loosestrife _____

Erosion: _____ (Photos Taken) Yes _____ No _____

Other Species Observed: SONG BIRDS

Other Pertinent Survey Information



PROJECT FLOW - 80 CFS Year 2014 Invasive Species/Erosion Survey
Winter Hydroelectric Project - FERC # 2064

Date: 8/18/14 Conducted By: GARY RAST

HWL: 1370.52 TWL: 1344.60

Time Survey Started: 3:50 PM Time Survey Ended: 4:30 PM

Weather Conditions: MOSTLY CLOUDY, TEMPS IN LOW 70'S,
PRESSURE @ 29.74 + WINDS S @ 8 MPH.
FHLLC PROPERTY

Location of Survey Area: Tailrace _____ Bypass Reach _____ Impoundment _____

Time of Sighting(s): SAME AS ABOVE

Location of Sighting(s) (GPS Coordinates): _____

(Attach Photos & Map if Applicable)

Asiatic Honeysuckles: Lonicera tartarica _____ L. morrowii _____ L. x bella _____

Buckthorns: Rhamnus carthartica _____ R. frangula _____

Curly Pondweed: _____ Garlic Mustard _____ Eurasian Water Milfoil _____

Japanese Knotweed: _____ Purple Loosestrife _____

Erosion: _____ (Photos Taken) Yes _____ No _____

Other Species Observed: NONE OBSERVED + NO PL OBSERVED

Other Pertinent Survey Information

Gary Rast



WINTER 8-18-2014 ASIATIC HONEYSUCKLES



WINTER 8-18-2014 ASIATIC HONEYSUCKLE

Purple Loosestrife

Year 2014 Invasive Species/Erosion Survey

PROJECT Flow - 800FS Winter Hydroelectric Project - FERC # 2064

Date: 8/18/14 Conducted By: GARY RAST + JIM TESCH

HWL: 1370.52 TWL: 1344.60

Time Survey Started: 1:00 PM Time Survey Ended: 3:30 PM

Weather Conditions: OVERCAST, WINDS S @ 7 MPH, PRESSURE @ 29.77, TEMPS IN HIGH 60'S

Location of Survey Area: Tailrace Bypass Reach Impoundment

Time of Sighting(s): _____

Location of Sighting(s) (GPS Coordinates): _____

(Attach Photos & Map if Applicable)

Asiatic Honeysuckles: Lonicera tartarica L. morrowii L. x bella

Buckthorns: Rhamnus carthartica R. frangula

Curly Pondweed: Garlic Mustard Eurasian Water Milfoil

Japanese Knotweed: Purple Loosestrife YES - SEE SURVEY SHEET

Erosion: (Photos Taken) Yes No

Other Species Observed: FAMILY OF 4 DUCKS + SONG BIRDS
NO OTHER SPECIES OBSERVED.

Other Pertinent Survey Information

DIFFICULT VIEWING - LOOSE STRIFE NOT VERY TALL. OTHER PLANTS + GRASSES QUITE TALL. SOME OLD CANE OBSERVED.

Gary Rast

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE SURVEY DATUM:WGS 84 PROJECT: WINTER #2064
 CREW: GGR, JT DATE: 8-18-2014

Sighting #	GPS Point	Latitude	Longitude	Plant Height	Stand Area	Comments
1	WNTR PL001	N45 55.827'	W90 56.572	4'	N/A	First observed in 2007. Located on the right side of the river ~4050 ft. upstream from the diversion dam. Seed heads cut in 2007. 2008-No treatment. 2009, 2010,2011-No plants observed. 2012-Boat was not able to get close enough for treatment. 2013 and 2014- none seen-marsh grasses were very tall.
2&3	WNTR PL002 WNTR PL003	N45 55.868 N45 55.851	W90 56.650 W90 56.628	4'	~120' X 200' 7 Groups of plants	First observed in 2007. Located on the right side of the river ~3700 ft. upstream from the diversion dam. 2009, sites PL002 and PL003 were grouped as one continuous site due to the close proximity of the sites. 2010 some old cane was visible with no new growth within it. 2011-None were seen. No treatment 2008-2014. 2012 -photo-full bloom. No beetle damage observed. 2013- in the middle of tall wetland grasses-could only see the flower spikes from a distance(no photos- too far away) 2014-Photo- Old cane observed- closer to river, no beetle damage.

PURPLE LOOSESTRIPE SURVEY DATUM:WGS 84
 CREW: GGR, JT

PROJECT: WINTER #2064
 DATE: 8-18-2014

Sighting #	GPS Point	Latitude	Longitude	Plant Height	Stand Area	Comments
4	WNTR PL004	N45 55.904	W90 56.347	1-3' plant 4' plant	1- N/A	First observed in 2010. Located on the right side of the river and ~5130 ft. upstream of the diversion dam. No old cane . 2011 nothing observed or treated. 2012-No beetle damage observed and no treatment. 2013, 2014-Not seen(grasses were very tall)
5	WNTRPLNA01	N45 56.225 estimated location	W90 55.392 estimated location	N/A	N/A	First observed in 2007-photos taken . Right side of river. This site was ~240 yds. upstream of the project boundary limits and could not be reached by boat due to rapids. 2010 only 4 areas of blooming plants were observed at this site. No treatment in 2008 to 2011. 2012, 2013,2014 no blooming plants were observed.



WINTER 8-18-2014 PL002

WINTER PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE LOCATION MAP 2014

FERC # 2064



Legend

WINTER PL 2014

- ★ SMALL COLONY PL FOUND 2014
- ◆ PL NOT FOUND 2014
- ▲ PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- POWERHOUSE
- STATE OUTLINE

UPSTREAM END OF PROJECT BOUNDARY

WNTR PLNA01

WNTR PL002
WNTR PL003

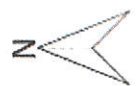
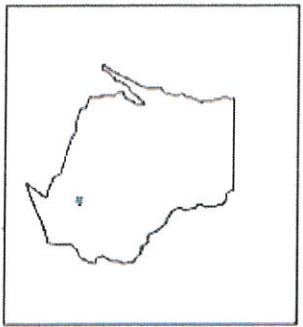
WNTR PL004

WNTR PL001

DOWNSTREAM END OF PROJECT BOUNDARY

POWERHOUSE

DIVERSION DAM



Erosion

Year 2014 ~~Invasive Species/Erosion Survey~~

Winter Hydroelectric Project - FERC # 2064

Date: 6-5-2014 Conducted By: AKR

HWL: 1369.85 TWL: 1346.45 556 CFS

Time Survey Started: 9:00 am Time Survey Ended: 12:15

Weather Conditions: sunny 70° Bar. 29.9

Location of Survey Area: Tailrace Bypass Reach Impoundment

Time of Sighting(s): _____

Location of Sighting(s) (GPS Coordinates): _____

(Attach Photos & Map if Applicable)

Asiatic Honeysuckles: Lonicera tartarica _____ L. morrowii _____ L. x bella _____

Buckthorns: Rhamnus carthartica _____ R. frangula _____

Curly Pondweed: _____ Garlic Mustard _____ Eurasian Water Milfoil _____

Japanese Knotweed: _____ Purple Loosestrife _____

Erosion: _____ (Photos Taken) Yes No _____

Other Species Observed: turkey Vulture, deer, painted turtle

Other Pertinent Survey Information

ER003- pic 24 - no noticeable change

ER002- pic 25 -

ER001- healed - couldn't see / find



7-28-2010 WNTR ER001



6-10-2013 WNTR ER001



7-26-2011 WNTR ER002



6-5-2014 WNTR ER002



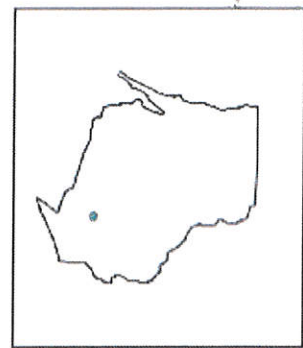
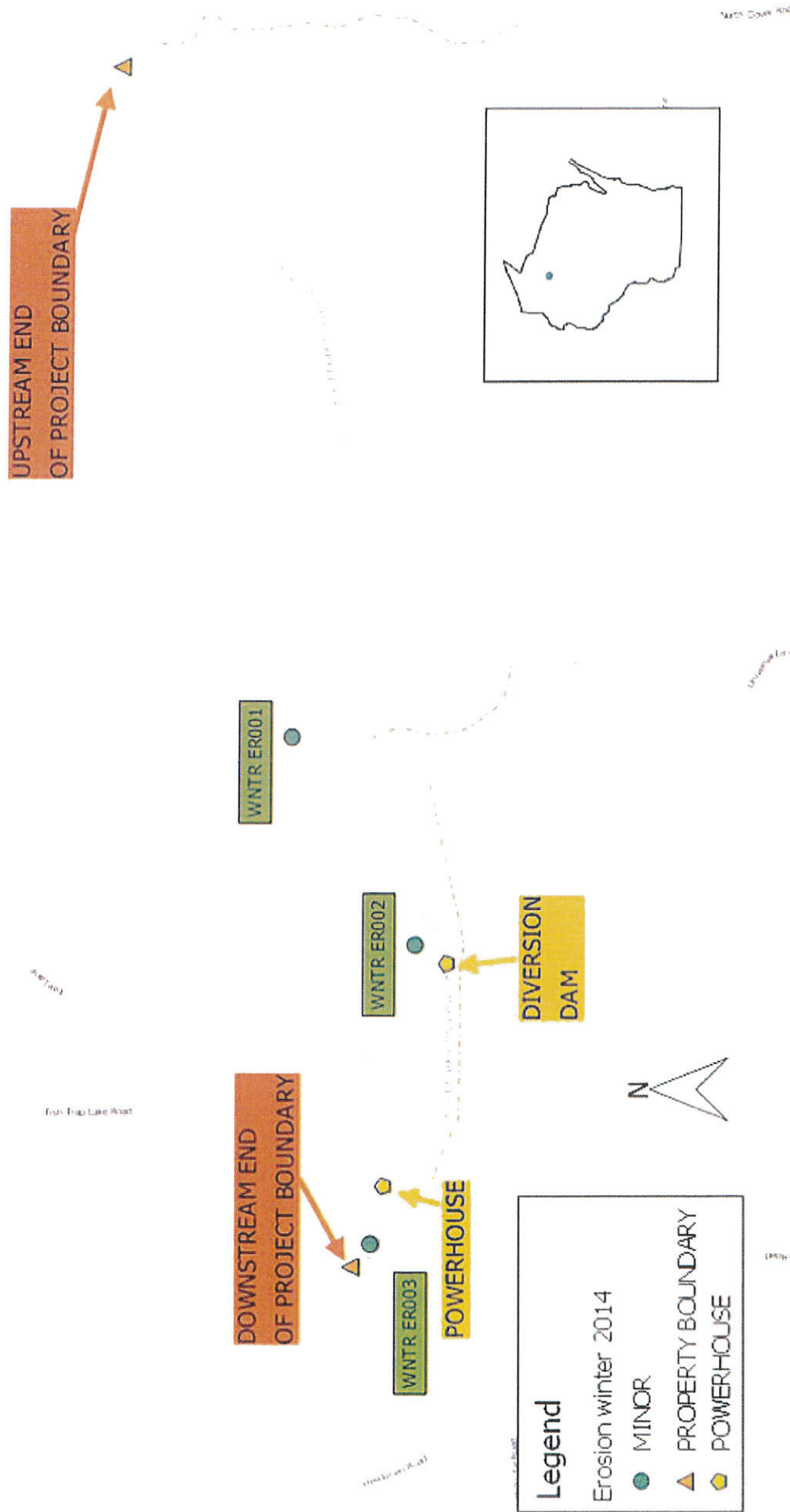
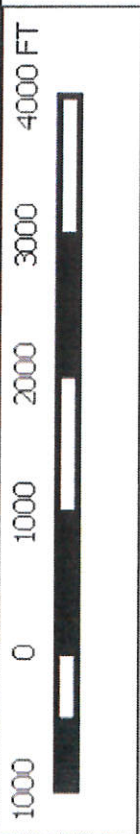
7-26-2011 WNTR ER003



6-5-2014 WNTR ER003

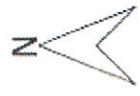
WINTER EROSION LOCATION MAP 2014

FERC # 2064



Legend

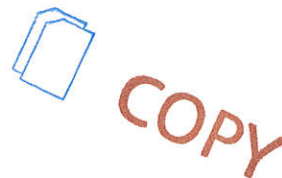
- Erosion winter 2014
 - MINOR
 - ▲ PROPERTY BOUNDARY
 - ⬠ POWERHOUSE



Appendix 1
Agency Correspondence

Gary Rast

From: Gary Rast
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 12:17 PM
To: David Anderson; 'jtesch@renewableworldenergies.com'
Cc: 'Jason Kreuzscher'; Cindy Skowronski
Subject: WNTR Wolf Survey Form and Instructions
Attachments: 15-01-08 GGR WNTR Wolf Survey Form.pdf



Dave & Jim,

With the recent December re-listing of the wolf we had to consult with the agencies in regard to wolf surveys to be conducted at the Winter Hydro Project. This has been done and all agreed to a simple winter survey for each year. Please start doing the wolf survey at the Winter Project beginning Next Week/Mid-January. Print and use the attached form.

RWE Survey Proposal (Instructions): **The survey will be conducted in the winter when the operator does daily checks at the project after fresh snowfall as a foot/vehicle survey of the accessible project property. After winter 2015 the surveys would be conducted beginning with the first snowfall of the Fall season and continuing through March 31st.**

Note: If you make observations (Wolves/Dens/Tracks/Scat) at any time which are NOT after a snowfall please document on the form and indicate as such, and see column Fresh Snow Y/N.

Please send the completed forms to the office after March 31st. Also as an example, the 14-15 and 15-16 and any following surveys may overlap a bit in the fall. I need to make a draft report to the Agencies by Dec 31st so I'll need the completed forms beginning first snowfall by the end of November and any more observations from then thru Dec by the first few days of January so they can be added and included in the Final Report. I don't expect you to walk around all the property on snow shoes. Any areas which are fairly accessible such as the powerhouse area, parking areas, roadways to and from diversion dam, main roads which border the project, tailrace, and tailrace fishing area, view what you can with binoculars or whatever works.. Just asking for a reasonable attempt with a record of surveys done and sent back for the report. Any questions please call.

Gary

Gary Rast
Regulatory/Compliance Manager



Renewable World Energies, LLC
100 S. State Street
P.O. Box 264
Neshkoro, WI 54960
Phone: 855-994-9376 Ext. 105
Fax: 920-293-4100
Cell: 920-570-0995
E-mail: grast@rwehydro.com

Gary Rast

From: Reinecke, Sue -FS <sreinecke@fs.fed.us>
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2015 10:02 AM
To: Gary Rast
Subject: RE: WNTR Wolf Survey Form



Sounds good Gary.

sue



Sue Reinecke
Forest Fisheries Biologist
Forest Service
Chequamegon-Nicolet National
Forest

p: 715-762-5185

f: 715-762-5179

sreinecke@fs.fed.us

1170 4th Ave South
Park Falls, WI 54552

www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving
people

From: Gary Rast [<mailto:grast@rwehydro.com>]
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2015 9:30 AM
To: Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR; Reinecke, Sue -FS; Higgins, Dale -FS; Utrup, Nick
Cc: Jason Kreuzscher; Cindy Skowronski
Subject: WNTR Wolf Survey Form

Everyone, Please find below the trail of consult on Wolf Surveys to be conducted at the Winter Hydro Project. I have made the change to the form as suggested by Sue and have attached the updated form for review. **RWE Proposal: The survey will be conducted in the winter when the operator does daily checks at the project after fresh snowfall as a foot/vehicle survey of the accessible project property. After winter 2015 the surveys would be conducted beginning with the first snowfall of the Fall season and continuing through March 31st.** I have not received a solid comment from WDNR otherwise it seems the form is good with everyone else. If no additional comments or changes are needed, the survey will commence for the 2014-2015 winter beginning mid-January.

Gary

Everyone,

With the recent listing of the Gray Wolf as Threatened and Endangered, RWE has to consult with the agencies for guidance on the survey to be conducted. See page 14 of the WNTR L W MNGT Plan and the Order Modifying and Approving found above. I have attached what I think would work in the WNTR Wolf Survey Form found above. Will this meet the criteria? I need something to go on ASAP. I think the survey would be best and most efficiently conducted primarily in the winter as a foot/vehicle survey of the property. It could be done when the operator does daily checks at the project after fresh snowfall. What are your recommendations for frequency/time of year/survey indicators, etc..... ? We await your recommendations/management guidelines. Thanks

Gary

WDNR Comment: Hi Gary – I am going to reach out to Dave McFarland. He is our wolf biologist. Stay tuned

FS Comment: Hi Gary, I apologize for the delayed response, was out of the office for 2 weeks. I just checked with our Forest Wildlife Biologist Dan Eklund and he thought the form would be fine and agreed with the winter survey. Dan suggested that you add a location block to the form in case you do find a wolf den.

Thanks

Sue

USFWS Comment: Hi Gary,

I concur with comments provided by the Forest Service.

Thanks,

Nick

Gary Rast
Regulatory/Compliance Manager

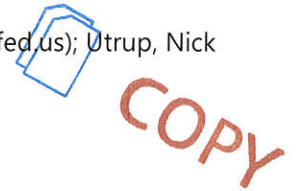


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E-mail: grast@rwehydro.com

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Gary Rast

From: Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR <Cheryl.Laatsch@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2015 9:46 AM
To: Gary Rast; Reinecke, Sue -FS; Higgins, Dale -FS (dhiggins@fs.fed.us); Utrup, Nick
Cc: Jason Kreuzscher; Cindy Skowronski
Subject: RE: WNTR Wolf Survey Form



Please proceed. I have not received any feedback. Thanks

We are committed to service excellence.

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Cheryl Laatsch

Phone: 920-387-7869

Cheryl.laatsch@wisconsin.gov

From: Gary Rast [<mailto:grast@rwehydro.com>]
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2015 9:30 AM
To: Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR; Reinecke, Sue -FS; Higgins, Dale -FS (dhiggins@fs.fed.us); Utrup, Nick
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Nick

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Regulatory/Compliance Manager



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P.O. Box 264
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Phone: 855-994-9376 Ext. 105
Fax: 920-293-4100
Cell: 920-570-0995
E-mail: grast@rwehydro.com

Gary Rast

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To: 'Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR'; 'Reinecke, Sue -FS'; Higgins, Dale -FS (dhiggins@fs.fed.us); Utrup, Nick
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Nick

Gary Rast

 COPY

From: Reinecke, Sue -FS <sreinecke@fs.fed.us>
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2015 8:02 AM
To: Gary Rast; Utrup, Nick; Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR; Higgins, Dale -FS
Subject: RE: WNTR Project Wolf Survey Guidance

Hi Gary, I apologize for the delayed response, was out of the office for 2 weeks. I just checked with our Forest Wildlife Biologist Dan Eklund and he thought the form would be fine and agreed with the winter survey. Dan suggested that you add a location block to the form in case you do find a wolf den.

Thanks
sue



Sue Reinecke
Forest Fisheries Biologist
Forest Service
Chequamegon-Nicolet National
Forest

p: 715-762-5185
f: 715-762-5179
sreinecke@fs.fed.us

1170 4th Ave South
Park Falls, WI 54552
www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving
people

From: Gary Rast [<mailto:grast@rwehydro.com>]
Sent: Monday, December 22, 2014 3:39 PM
To: Utrup, Nick; Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR; Higgins, Dale -FS; Reinecke, Sue -FS
Cc: Jason Kreuzscher; Cindy Skowronski
Subject: WNTR Project Wolf Survey Guidance

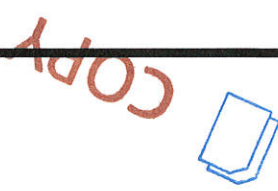
Everyone,

With the recent listing of the Gray Wolf as Threatened and Endangered, RWE has to consult with the agencies for guidance on the survey to be conducted. See page 14 of the WNTR L W MNGT Plan and the Order Modifying and Approving found above. I have attached what I think would work in the WNTR Wolf Survey Form found above. Will this meet the criteria? I need something to go on ASAP. I think the survey would be best and most efficiently conducted primarily in the winter as a foot/vehicle survey of the property. It could be done when the operator does daily checks at the project after fresh snowfall. What are your recommendations for frequency/time of year/survey indicators, etc.....? We await your recommendations/management guidelines. Thanks

Gary

Gary Rast
Regulatory/Compliance Manager

Gary Rast



From: Utrup, Nick <nick_utrup@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2015 8:19 AM
To: Gary Rast
Cc: Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR; Higgins, Dale -FS (dhiggins@fs.fed.us); Reinecke, Sue -FS; Jason Kreuzscher; Cindy Skowronski
Subject: Re: WNTR Project Wolf Survey Guidance

Hi Gary,

I concur with comments provided by the Forest Service.

Thanks,

Nick

Nick Utrup
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 American Boulevard East
Bloomington, MN 55425

Office: 612-725-3548 Ext. 2204
Cell: 952-567-9616
FAX: 612-725-3609
Email: Nick_Utrup@fws.gov

On Mon, Dec 22, 2014 at 3:39 PM, Gary Rast <grast@rwehydro.com> wrote:

Everyone,

With the recent listing of the Gray Wolf as Threatened and Endangered, RWE has to consult with the agencies for guidance on the survey to be conducted. See page 14 of the WNTR L W MNGT Plan and the Order Modifying and Approving found above. I have attached what I think would work in the WNTR Wolf Survey Form found above. Will this meet the criteria? I need something to go on ASAP. I think the survey would be best and most efficiently conducted primarily in the winter as a foot/vehicle survey of the property. It could be done when the operator does daily checks at the project after fresh snowfall. What are your recommendations for frequency/time of year/survey indicators, etc..... ? We await your recommendations/management guidelines. Thanks

Gary

Gary Rast

From: Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR <Cheryl.Laatsch@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2014 9:56 AM
To: Gary Rast
Subject: RE: WNTR Project Wolf Survey Guidance



Hi Gary – I am going to reach out to Dave McFarland. He is our wolf biologist. Stay tuned.

We are committed to service excellence.

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Cheryl Laatsch

Phone: 920-387-7869

Cheryl.laatsch@wisconsin.gov

From: Gary Rast [<mailto:grast@rwehydro.com>]
Sent: Monday, December 22, 2014 3:39 PM
To: Utrup, Nick; Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR; Higgins, Dale -FS (dhiggins@fs.fed.us); Reinecke, Sue -FS
Cc: Jason Kreuscher; Cindy Skowronski
Subject: WNTR Project Wolf Survey Guidance

Everyone,

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Gary

Gary Rast
Regulatory/Compliance Manager



Renewable World Energies, LLC
100 S. State Street
P.O. Box 264
Neshkoro, WI 54960
Phone: 855-994-9376 Ext. 105
Fax: 920-293-4100
Cell: 920-570-0995
E-mail: grast@rwehydro.com

Gary Rast

From: Gary Rast
Sent: Monday, December 22, 2014 3:39 PM
To: Utrup, Nick; 'Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR'; Higgins, Dale -FS (dhiggins@fs.fed.us); Reinecke, Sue -FS'
Cc: 'Jason Kreuzscher'; Cindy Skowronski
Subject: WNTR Project Wolf Survey Guidance
Attachments: 14-12-22 GGR WNTR Wolf Survey Form.pdf; 11-06-03 FERC WNTR Order Mod & Approve Land & Wildlife MNGT Plan.pdf; WNTR L W MNGT Plan Page 14.pdf



Everyone,

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Gary

Gary Rast
Regulatory/Compliance Manager



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P.O. Box 264
Neshkoro, WI 54960
Phone: 855-994-9376 Ext. 105
Fax: 920-293-4100
Cell: 920-570-0995
E-mail: grast@rwehydro.com

Gary Rast

From: Aneta Rietveld
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2015 3:21 PM
To: Gary Rast
Subject: FW: Winter 2014 Land and Wildlife Management Report



From: Reinecke, Sue -FS [<mailto:sreinecke@fs.fed.us>]
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2015 3:20 PM
To: Aneta Rietveld
Cc: Reinecke, Sue -FS
Subject: RE: Winter 2014 Land and Wildlife Management Report

Hi Aneta, draft report looks good. Please continue to work with Steven Spickerman on the NNIS issues. I know Gary was working on survey protocol but the wolf paragraph probably needs to be updated to reflect the recent re-listing.

No other comments.

Feel free to give me a call if you have any questions.

Thanks
sue



Sue Reinecke
Forest Fisheries Biologist
Forest Service
Chequamegon-Nicolet National
Forest

p: 715-762-5185
f: 715-762-5179
sreinecke@fs.fed.us

1170 4th Ave South
Park Falls, WI 54552
www.fs.fed.us



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From: Aneta Rietveld [<mailto:arietveld@rwehydro.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 2:17 PM
To: 'nick_utrup@fws.gov'; cheryl.laatsch@wisconsin.gov; Strong, Paul -FS
Cc: Reinecke, Sue -FS; Higgins, Dale -FS; Gary Rast
Subject: RE: Winter 2014 Land and Wildlife Management Report

Hi All,
Going back over my sent items from last month, I noticed there was no attachment when I emailed the Winter report on 12-19-14. Here it is – I am so sorry about that.
Aneta Rietveld

RWE Hydro
Cell(920)293-1251

From: Aneta Rietveld
Sent: Friday, December 19, 2014 8:12 AM
To: 'nick_utrup@fws.gov'; cheryl.laatsch@wisconsin.gov; 'pstrong@fs.fed.us'
Cc: Sue Reinecke; dhiggins@fs.fed.us
Subject: Winter 2014 Land and Wildlife Management Report

Hi, Nick, Paul, and Cheryl:

Attached you will find the 2014 Winter Hydroelectric Project's Land and Wildlife Management Report for 2014. Please review and comment by the beginning of February so I can get the final report to FERC by the end of February. Thank you,

Aneta Rietveld
RWE Hydro
Environmental
Cell(920)293-1251

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Gary Rast

From: Aneta Rietveld
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 12:53 PM
To: Gary Rast
Subject: FW: Winter 2014 Land and Wildlife Management Report

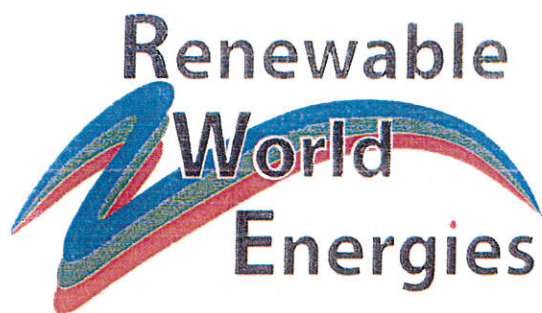


From: Aneta Rietveld
Sent: Friday, December 19, 2014 8:12 AM
To: 'nick_utrup@fws.gov'; cheryl.laatsch@wisconsin.gov; 'pstrong@fs.fed.us'
Cc: Sue Reinecke; dhiggins@fs.fed.us
Subject: Winter 2014 Land and Wildlife Management Report

Hi, Nick, Paul, and Cheryl:

Attached you will find the 2014 Winter Hydroelectric Project's Land and Wildlife Management Report for 2014. Please review and comment by the beginning of February so I can get the final report to FERC by the end of February. Thank you,

Aneta Rietveld
RWE Hydro
Environmental
Cell(920)293-1251



 COPY

December 18, 2014

Mr. Nick Utrup
WI/MN Ecological Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4101 American Blvd. East
Bloomington, MN 55425

Mr. Paul Strong, Forest Supervisor
USDA Forest Service Chequamegon Nicolet NF
Forest Headquarters Offices
500 Hanson Lake Road
Rhineland, WI 54501

Ms. Cheryl Laatsch
Statewide FERC Coordinator
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
N7725 HWY 28
Horicon, WI 53032

**Re: Winter Hydroelectric Project
FERC Project Number P-2064
Flambeau Hydro LLC
Draft Report 2014 Land & Wildlife Management Report**

Dear Agencies:

Purpose

On behalf of Flambeau Hydro LLC "Flambeau" (Licensee), Renewable World Energies is submitting an electronic copy of the Draft Report 2014 Land & Wildlife Management Report for the Winter Hydroelectric Project for review and comment.

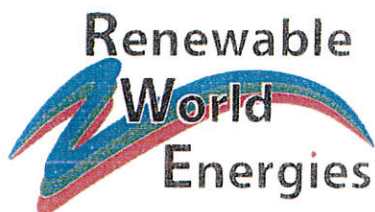
Background

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission "FERC" issued a License to Flambeau on August 12, 2005. Portions of the original Certification were contested by the Licensee. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) submitted a revised Water Quality Certification, Dated at Park Falls, WI:

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Fax: 920-293-4100

Phone: 855-99HYDRO
(855-994-9376)
www.renewableworldenergies.com

Administrative Office
1001 Stephenson Street
Norway, MI 49870
Fax: 906-563-9344



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1001 Stephenson Street
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August 19, 2008 that replaced the original certification of June 21, 2005. Only conditions E, F, and J were modified and a footnote was added to condition D according to the Final Settlement Agreement.

The submitted report is a requirement of the License pursuant to Article 404, Forest Service (FS) Condition 10, and WDNR Water Quality Certification Item Letter P, Q, and R. The Land & Wildlife Management Plan was filed with FERC on December 19, 2008. FERC issued an Order Modifying and Approving the plan on June 3, 2011.

Wood Turtle Survey

The wood turtle survey was conducted on June 4 and June 5, 2014. No wood turtles were sighted by the licensee although multiple other animal species were seen including blackbirds, deer, painted turtles, spiny softshell turtles, geese, and a turkey vulture. Survey notes and photos are included under the section titled Survey Documents page 21. The next survey will be completed in the early summer of 2015.

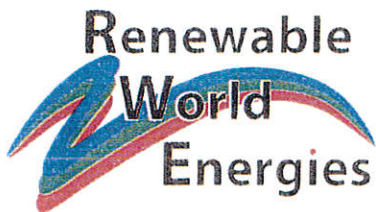
Invasive Species Consultation

The invasive species survey was conducted on August 18 and Asiatic honeysuckles were still growing in the same areas as on previous years. Photos and survey notes are included under the section titled Survey Documents page 21. Purple loosestrife is covered in the next section. None of the other invasive species were noted on this survey. The next survey will be completed in the late summer of 2015.

During the 2014 season Flambeau Hydro, LLC was in contact with Steven Spickerman Plant Ecologist for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. They were to treat the invasive honeysuckle near the tailrace and along the canoe portage trail by spraying in place (basal bark treatment.) during the 2014 growing season. An email from him on November 3, 2014 revealed that they treated the honeysuckle infestation on September 22 and 23, 2014 with Element 4(61.6% triclopyr) mixed with a surfactant Liberate as a basal bark treatment. They will reassess in the spring when the new growth appears. Email correspondence is attached under Appendix 1.

Purple Loosestrife Survey

On August 18, 2014 the licensee conducted a survey for purple loosestrife plants. Of the four previously noted sites only one (WNTR PL002-PL003) had 7 plants blooming in the middle of a grassy swamp. The only animal life seen this day was a family of 4 ducks and various songbirds. Photo and survey notes included under the section titled Survey Documents page 21. The next survey will be completed in the late summer of 2015.



Administrative Office
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Norway, MI 49870
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Fax: 906-563-9344
www.renewableworldenergies.com

Erosion Survey

The erosion survey was completed on June 5, 2014. There are 3 minor erosion sites located on the Winter Project. WNTR ER003 is the only one located on project lands and it has not changed in the comparison photos from 2011 to 2014. WNTR ER001 could not be located as it is healing and blended in. A photo comparison from 2010 to 2013 shows that it has grown much ground cover over the years. WNTR 002 also has more vegetation growing on the toe of the bank and appears to be healing as well- photos comparing 2011 to 2014 are include under the section titled Survey Documents page 21. Next erosion survey will be conducted in the spring of 2017 and the results will be added to the 2017 Land and Wildlife Report.

Conclusion

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's regulations allow for a 30 day formal review and comment period. Thank you in advance for providing your responses in a timely manner so we can include your comments and recommendations, as appropriate, into our report which the Licensee must file by March 1, 2015 with the FERC.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Mr. Gary Rast at the Renewable World Energies LLC offices @ 855-994-9376 ext. 105, or by email at; grast@rwehydro.com. An alternate contact is Aneta Rietveld at the Renewable World Energies LLC offices @ 855-994-9376 ext. 108, or by email at; arietveld@rwehydro.com.

Sincerely,

Renewable World Energies, LLC
Agent for Licensee

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason Kreuzscher".

for: Mr. Jason Kreuzscher
Vice President Operations

Attachment: Draft Report 2014 Land & Wildlife Management Report – December 18, 2014

Cc: RWE Corporate
Sue Reinecke, FS
Dale Higgins, FS

Aneta Rietveld

From: Kearns, Kelly - DNR <Kelly.Kearns@wisconsin.gov> on behalf of DNR Invasive Species <DNRInvasiveSpecies@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 25, 2014 6:26 PM
To: Aneta Rietveld
Subject: RE: Honeysuckle photos for Winter SWIMS

Aneta – Thank you for the honeysuckle and loosestrife photos you sent to DNR along with your SWIMS reports.

We are committed to service excellence.

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Kelly Kearns

Phone: 608-267-5066

Kelly.kearns@wi.gov

From: Aneta Rietveld [<mailto:arietveld@rwehydro.com>]
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2014 1:15 PM
To: DNR Invasive Species
Subject: Honeysuckle photos for Winter SWIMS

Photos of honeysuckle at Renewable World Energies Hydro, East Fork Chippewa River (Winter) FERC #2064 in the SWIMS database.

Aneta Rietveld
RWE Hydro
Cell(920)293-1251

Aneta Rietveld

From: Spickerman, Steven -FS <sspickerman@fs.fed.us>
Sent: Monday, November 03, 2014 8:30 AM
To: Aneta Rietveld
Subject: RE: Winter East Fork Hydroelectric Project

Hi Aneta, we worked on the honeysuckle infestation at the Winter Dam site on Sept 22 and 23. All treatment was with Element 4 (61.6% triclopyr) mixed with the surfactant Liberate as a basal bark treatment. My crew treated all of the honeysuckle they could locate. Either I or my crew leader will follow up with monitoring and re-assessment next spring when honeysuckle leaves out.

Steven Spickerman
Ecologist – Great Divide Ranger District
Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest
715-264-2511 ext. 230

From: Aneta Rietveld [<mailto:arietveld@rwehydro.com>]
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2014 3:00 PM
To: Spickerman, Steven -FS
Subject: Winter East Fork Hydroelectric Project

Hi Steve,

I am just following up on the honeysuckle treatment for the Winter Hydroelectric Project. One of the operators thinks he saw a FS spray truck by the dam September 22. If spraying of the honeysuckle occurred could you send me the dates, type of herbicide used, and which areas were sprayed? Thank you for your help in this matter.

Aneta Rietveld
RWE Hydro
Cell(920)293-1251

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Wolf

CORRESPONDENCE

Document Content(s)

15-02-19 GGR WNTR F 2014 L W MNGT RPT To FERC.PDF.....1-68